



## City of Virginia Beach

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November 8, 2005

D. Terry Hall,  
President  
Virginia Chapter of APCO

**Subject: APCO Position Paper**

Dear Terry:

We appreciate the time and effort the Virginia APCO members have put into this very important effort. We truly feel that Virginia APCO represents the entire public safety communications community in Virginia and best represents the intent and desire of the PSAPs.

We have read your position paper on the upcoming legislative changes and support the recommendations. We feel the Wireless Board has done a fine job in their support and management of the wireless 9-1-1 initiative in Virginia, and their charter, as originally legislated, is appropriate and is in no need of changes. I believe your letter represents the true opinion of the majority of the PSAPs in the Commonwealth and we trust the wireless board will consider them accordingly.

We would like to echo several comments and emphasize their relevance:

1. Best Practices – The City of Virginia Beach agrees that it would be helpful for the board to create a best practice relevant to wireless deployment, however, the other areas are best served by existing standards. I would like to emphasize the importance of CALEA certification, which applies National best practices to PSAPs. There are over 200 standards to adhere to and they better serve the needs of PSAPs. The effort by the wireless board in this area creates unnecessary duplicity and it would be helpful if they focused their efforts on creating Virginia Wireless 9-1-1 best practice guidelines.

2. IP Data Network – The City of Virginia Beach agrees that this should not be a Wireless Board or even a 9-1-1 effort. An IP network has very large implications for the Commonwealth, and the localities, and should only be considered after thorough analysis involving state and local officials. It would be helpful if VITA and/or the Commonwealth CIO considered a facilitated and collaborative process that involves all parties before any Commonwealth IP network requiring local use is considered.
3. VOIP – VOIP is a local issue and impacts services to and from our respective constituents. State involvement is neither recommended nor advised. A VOIP call should be no different than a wireline call to the PSAP and is really a provider issue not a state issue.

We continue to appreciate the efforts Virginia APCO puts forth to ensure cooperation and consensus is reached amongst the PSAPs in the Commonwealth. These are important issues that affect the public safety of our respective constituents and our continued collaborative involvement is important to a successful outcome. If I can provide any further information or assistance, please contact me at 757-563-1847 or e-mail me at [donhaize@VBgov.com](mailto:donhaize@VBgov.com).

Sincerely,

Doug Onhaizer

Doug Onhaizer  
Administrator, Communications and Information Technology  
City of Virginia Beach